

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS:

1. (Previously amended) A mounting system for a pellicle comprising:

a mounting structure for coupling a pellicle to a mask, wherein a sealed interior portion is formed between the pellicle, the mask and the mounting structure; and

a port on the mounting structure through which a pressure difference can be created between the interior portion and an exterior environment;

a pressure regulator in communication with the port to control a pressure in the interior portion; and

a velocity sensor to determine the velocity of the pellicle, wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the velocity sensor.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a source of high pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator, and a source of low pressure gas coupled to the pressure regulator.

4. (Original) The mounting system of claim ²/~~3~~, wherein one of the sources of pressure gas is the exterior environment.

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5. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a pressure sensor
operatively coupled to the pressure regulator for detecting a pressure of the interior portion.

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6. (Previously amended) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a position sensor to
determine the position of the pellicle;

wherein the pressure difference is controlled by the pressure regulator to maintain a flat
surface on the pellicle based on a reading from the position sensor.

7. (Cancelled).

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8. (Original) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising a calibrated leak from the
interior portion to the exterior environment.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

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11. (Original) The mounting system of claim 1, further comprising an aerodynamic fairing
adjacent the mounting structure.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Previously amended) A method of reducing distortion of a sealed pellicle for a mask, the pellicle being sealed to the mask to form an interior portion therebetween, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a velocity of the pellicle using a velocity sensor; and

regulating a pressure in the interior portion to maintain a flat surface on the pellicle based on the velocity.

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19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of providing an aerodynamic fairing adjacent the mask to reduce turbulent airflow across the pellicle.

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20. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the pressure is also regulated according to feedback from at least one of a pressure sensor coupled to the interior portion, and a position sensor for the pellicle.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

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